

THE REHEARSAL.

Of Pretended Danger to the Church

1. The Danger not from the Queen.
2. No such Insulting ever Heard of. No. Not in Forty-One.
3. Our Security in the Queen.
4. The Voting no Danger to the Church, was Forbidding Both sides to Meddle with it.
5. The Church-side has Forborne. But not the other.
6. They give Us Plainly to Understand, That in the Union with Scotland, our Episcopacy, Liturgy, with all our Rites and Ceremonies, and the Act of Uniformity, must give Place to Presbytery, and the Extempore Eloquence.
7. The Rehearsal, N. 20. a full Answer to all their Objections about Imposing Indifferent things.
8. Their Standing out against the Exhortations to Moderation from the Queen, and both Houses of Parliament.
9. They Attack the Universities. And Caution men to Fly from the Church, as from a Falling-House. And call her now something next to Nothing.

From Saturday December the 22th. to Saturday December the 29th. 1705.

Country-m. **N**OW, Master, your Enemies think your Mouth is stop't, since it has been voted in both Houses of Parliament, that there is no Danger to the Church, under the Queen's Administration. And they Expect, and would fain see you say something to the Contrary, that they might have an Accusation against you.

(1.) Rehears. They never had any Ground against me, upon that Head. For I never thought the Church was in Danger under the Queen's Administration. Of whose Affection to the Church as no Man can doubt, so is her Safety wrapt up in that of the Church, and Inseparable from it. As it was with her Royal Grand-Father. Who soon fell a Sacrifice to their Rage, who had before Pull'd down the Church; Notwithstanding of their Many and most Earnest Protestations of Loyalty, and taking God to Witness, that they meant no Harm to him in all that; but wou'd make him a Glorious King. Which they Perform'd, like the Oracles of the Devil, in a Different Sense from what they intended he shou'd Understand.

(2.) I confess, I thought, if there was Danger to the Church, it was from the Multitude of most Scurrilous and Scandalous Papers and Pamphlets which Flew about all the Nation; Rendering the Church the Jest and Abhorrence of the Populace. And I believe no one Instance can be shew'd, since the World began, in any Nation whatsoever, where the Religion and Church that was Established, whether Jewish, Hea-

Insulted, in so Open and Notorious a Manner, as has of late befallen the Church of England. It far exceeds what was done in Forty-One. There were then several Seditious Pamphlets stole abroad, which sufficiently Poison'd the People, and Prepar'd them for the Revolution that was Ensuing: As King Charles the first, too late observ'd, and Attributed the Chief Cause of the Rebellion to their Influence. But there was not Then a Mint, a Fund, a Bank set up, to Furnish every Day in the Week with Fresh Libels against the Church, the Authors Known, and after Punishment, going on with it; And some of them putting their Names to it, and Defying Justice! Forty One affords no Precedent for this!

(3.) However, while the Queen keeps the Administration, we cannot Fear the Dissolution of our Church, because it would be her own Dissolution. And she must know it.

(4.) But, Country-man, what do you think? Don't you think it was the Intention of those who Voted no Danger to the Church, That as the Clamour of Danger, on the one Side, shou'd Cease; So on the other side, all fresh Provocations, Threatnings, and Insulting of the Church shou'd Cease likewise?

Country-m. O, Master, don't put me upon Guesing the Designs and Intentions of Great Men! It is the Part of Honest Country-men to Obey and Submit to the Wisdom of our Superiors, and not to be Canvassing and putting our own Constructions upon all their Actions. But surely One wou'd think, that their Design was to put an

an End to *Strife* and *Debate*; And that now, in the time, of *War* especially, there should be *Union* and good *Correspondence* among all *Protestants*, of her Majesty's Subjects more especially.

(5.) *Rehears.* No doubt you Guess Right, *Country-man*, and as an *Honest Man* should. But as the *Strife* has wholly *Ceas'd* on one side, on the side of the *Church*; So has it *Flam'd* out on the other side, rather more, and more *Insolently* than Before! As if the *Whiggs* and *Dissenters* Understood her Majesty's most Gracious *Speeches* and *Exhortations* to *Peace* and *Union*, and *Christian Moderation*, and the *Votes* of *Parliament* pursuant, to be meant only on *ONE* side, to *Gegg* up the *Mouth* of the *Church*, and Give others free Leave to *Provoke* and *Slander* still on! To *shut* up *Judah*, but let *Ephraim* Loose! Which is entirely to pervert the good Intentions of her Majesty and *Parliament*, to preserve a *Brotherly Love* and *Affection* among all her Subjects.

Country-m. I can hardly Believe (*Mafter*) they are so wicked. But if it should be so, it will make Good all that you have formerly said of these *Men*, and of their *Designs*. Therefor pray, Oblige me with a little *Prooffe* upon this Head.

(6.) *Rehears.* The *Review* of the 11th this Month, *Num.* 120. comes upon the *Union* now on foot betwixt *England* and *Scotland*. And upon the Point of *Religion*, that is, Whether *Episcopacy* must be *Restor'd* in *Scotland*, or their *Presbytery* Prevail in *England*, to make Us both *ONE*, he gives his Opinion freely for the Latter. He says, p. 479. *The Establishment of the present KIRK in SCOTLAND is too Firm for any Power on Earth to Shake; and the SCOTS cannot be Guilty of a Design to Subvert it. They are a Tenacious People when they Adhere to a Profession of RELIGION, or any thing else; they are not the Easiest People in the World to be Turn'd off from it, especially by Force.* And p. 480. he Rivets it again, saying, *And I am Bold to say, SCOTLAND will be always Unanimous, Hearty, Zealous, and Faithfull, in the Matter of RELIGION.*

Country-m. He speaks as if he knew them, and held *Correspondence* with them, else he is *Bold* indeed!

Rehears. No doubt he knows the mind of their *Dear Brethren* here in *England*, and that they *Both* Act in *Concert*, as they always have done. But now, *Country-man*, I come to shew you how this *Union* is to be *Compleated*, since *Scotland* is *Tenacious*, and will not *Yield* an *Ace*.

Country-m. If two Men are to *Meet*, and the *One* will not *Budge* a *Foot*, the *Other* must Come all the way to *Him*. I can see no other way of their *Meeting*.

Rehears. That's Plain, *Country-man*. And he says the same, in the same Page 480. He says, all the *Preliminaries* of this *Treaty* Consist in three, *Religion*, *Trade*, and *Civil-Government*. *Charity* would *Heal* the *First*. &c.

Country-m. What do's he mean by *Charity*? Is that our *Compliance* with Them? Then all the *Charity* is on *Our Side*! It seems, They have no *Charity* for *Us*, for *Episcopacy*: But *Episcopacy* must have all

Charity for *Presbytery*! A *Blessed Union*! I suppose they expect we should Part too with our *Lyturgy* (for their *Scots Presbyterian Eloquence*) and all our *Rites* and *Ceremonies*, and with our *Act* of *Uniformity* into the *Bargain*!

Rehears. The *Review* of last Nov. 22. *Num.* 112. is wholly spent against our *Lyturgy*, *Rites*, and *Ceremonies*, and particularly against the *Act* of *Uniformity*, by Name, which he Calls, p. 448. *Scandalous to the Church, Injurious to the Publick Peace, and a Grievance to the whole Nation.* And says, that the *Imposition* of *Ceremonies* and *Terms* of *Communion*, is, *Contrary* to the *Laws* of *God*, and the *Interest* of the *Nation*. And he *Addresses* all this to the *Bishops* now in *Convocation* *Assembl'd*, as the most *Proper Persons* to *Remove* all these *Stumbling-Blocks* out of the way. And speaks with a seeming *Assurance*, as if they were *Inclin'd* so to *Do*! And *Concludes* to their *Lordships*, that doing all this, you cannot in *Conscience* omit.

(7.) *Country-m.* I thought your *Rehearsal*, N. 20. had clear'd this Point of *Imposing Indifferent* things, as *Terms* of *Communion*. For there you Plainly shew, That in the *Church* of *England* no *Terms* of *Communion* are *Impos'd*, except those of the *Apostles Creed*. But you have often told me, That the *Method* of these *Men* is not *Answering*, but going on still with the *Clamour*! I'm sure I could get no other *Answer* to it, from all the *Dissenters* I could meet with, but *Scratching* their *Ears*, and *Sinpering* like a *Furmy-Kettle*. Besides some few *Hard-Names* upon your *Worship*, as an *Incendiary*, and *Enemy* to *Peace*! Because they will have no *Peace* but their own way. And I would Desire Mr. *Review* to Try his *Hand*, and see what he can say to that *Rehearsal*, or else give up his *Clamour*, as to *Imposing* of *Indifferent* things. Which They do, as much as *We*.

(8.) *Rehears.* What I am now upon, is, their keeping up their *Clamour* against the *Church*, at a Time when they are *Exhorted* both from the *Throne*, and by both *Houses* of *Parliament*, to *Moderation*, and *Healing* *Methods*. Instead of which, they continue to *Insult* the *Church* more and more. And tell her Plainly, That the *Terms* of *Union* with *Scotland*, must be her total *Overthrow*, as now by *Law* *Establish'd*.

(9.) The Rest of the *WEEKLY* Papers on that side, run all full Cry in the same *Strain*. Which I will shew you another time. They Attack the *Universities*, and would have their *Revenues* put to some better Use. As *Observer* of last Nov. 21. And *Review* puts in his *Thrust* against them, in his of last Oct. 26. Their *Church* (says *Observer* in his of this Decemb. 19.) Which is *SOMETHING*, next Kin to *NOTHING*. And, They might have left it, as *RATS* do a falling *HOUSE*. They have *Devour'd* it already, in their *Expectations*! Who are they then that Cry *Danger* to the *Church*? Who ought to be Esteem'd *Enemies* to the *Church*, to the *Queen*, to the *Nation*! And must This go on!